



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 12, 2013

Mr. William E. Henderson, II
Chairman
Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board
1862 Shyville Road, Suite 119
Piketon, Ohio 45661

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Thank you for January 10, 2013, letter and the Portsmouth Site Specific Advisory Board (PORTS SSAB) for Recommendation 13-01, in which the board "fully endorses a lifting of the Department of Energy's (DOE) suspension of non-contaminated scrap metals from radiological areas at DOE facilities, including the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant." We appreciate the board's thoughtful consideration of issues related to metal recycling with the goal of further waste minimization at the Environmental Management (EM) sites and your input on this important matter.

As you indicated in the recommendation's background section, the draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) on potential recycling of non-contaminated scrap metals from DOE facilities was put out for public comment in December 2012. We believe that the recommendation that you have submitted should be a part of the public record resulting from that comment period and have asked the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), as the lead agency in this effort, to accept your recommendation as a public comment in the PEA process. The NNSA has agreed to do so.

The *Draft PEA for the Recycling of Scrap Metals Originating from Radiological Areas* analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with recycling scrap metal, originating from DOE radiological areas, under improved procedures that ensure release only of metals that meet stringent criteria. The Draft PEA also analyzes reasonable alternatives to this proposal. As a part of the public record in this process, which is required under the National Environmental Policy Act, the PORTS SSAB recommendation will be captured for all of those involved in the decision making process.

Again we thank you for this input to an important process, as well as for your continued support as we continue our efforts to remediate EM's sites.



If you have any further questions, please contact Ms. Cate Alexander, Designated Federal Officer for the EM SSAB at (202) 586-7711, or Ms. Melissa A. Nielson, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Community Activities, at (202) 586-0356.

Sincerely,



Frank Marcinowski
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Waste Management

cc: William Murphie, PPPO
Joel Bradburne, PPPO
Cate Alexander, EM-3.2
Melissa Nielson, EM-3.2
Christine Gelles, EM-30